



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION
SERVICE AUTHORITY
FOR FREEWAYS
AND EXPRESSWAYS

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Memorandum

TO: Operations Committee

DATE: May 1, 2009

FR: Executive Director

W.I.: 1232

RE: Contract - MTC SAFE Freeway Service Patrol Radio Air Coverage Services: Crystal Communications

Summary

The radio air coverage contract for Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) tow trucks is due to expire on June 30, 2009. To continue radio air coverage services, MTC SAFE released a Request for Proposal (RFP) in March and received four proposals. After extensive review by MTC, Caltrans and CHP staff, staff recommends entering into a contract with Crystal Communications for FSP radio air coverage services. Crystal Communications is currently our Radio Air Coverage provider.

Background

Radio air coverage services enable tow truck operators and CHP dispatch to communicate via 2-way radio. More specifically, these services serve as a backup to the data communications system and enable immediate communications between tow operators and CHP dispatch in the event of an emergency.

To continue these services, staff issued an RFP and received proposals from Red Cloud, Inc, Wireless Voice & Data, The Radio Guys, and Crystal Communications. On April 23, the evaluation committee, comprised of staff from MTC SAFE, CHP and Caltrans, reviewed the proposals. Based on the evaluation committee's findings, staff recommends Crystal Communications to be the radio air coverage provider for FSP tow operators and dispatchers. Crystal Communications is the current provider of these services.

The four evaluation criteria, valued equally, were (1) cost effectiveness of the overall proposal, (2) adequacy and quality of air coverage in the 9-county MTC SAFE area, (3) ability to provide timely repairs and maintenance to base station equipment, mountaintop site equipment, and other components which are part of the communications system, and (4) references from clients using the vendor's services. Crystal Communications ranked highest particularly because of their overall cost effectiveness, their level and quality of radio service and repair, and their positive references. Wireless Voice and Data ranked second due to their extensive mountaintop radio network, though their overall costs were highest of all four proposals.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that this Committee authorize the Executive Director or his designee to enter into a contract with Crystal Communications in an amount not to exceed \$76,500, to provide radio air coverage for the FSP tow operators and dispatchers.

Steve Heminger

SH: SL

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REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Contract

Work Item No.: 1232

Contractor: Crystal Communications, CA

Work Project Title: Freeway Service Patrol Radio Air Coverage Services

Purpose of Project: Provide radio air coverage services for the FSP program.

Brief Scope of Work: Provide 2-way UHF radio air coverage services, maintain mountaintop antenna sites and base station radios, and program radios.

Project Cost Not to Exceed: \$76,500

Funding Source: SAFE

Fiscal Impact: Included in the FY 2009-10 SAFE Budget

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a letter contract with Crystal Communications to provide FSP radio air coverage services, and that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside \$1,500 for FY 08-09, \$25,000 for FY 09-10, \$25,000 for FY 10-11, and \$25,000 for FY 11-12, subject to inclusion of these comments in each respective budget year.

SAFE Operations
Committee:

Approved: _____ Date: May 8, 2009
Amy Rein Worth, Chairperson